TITLE 14. Fish and Game Commission Notice of Proposed Changes in Regulations

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission), pursuant to the authority vested by Sections 200, 202, 240, 1050 and 7360 of the Fish and Game Code and to implement, interpret or make specific Sections 200, 202, 205, 206, 240, 713, 1050, 1055 and 7360, of said Code, proposes to amend Section 1.18, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to Bay-Delta Sport Fishing Enhancement Stamp.

Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

During its December 3, 2003 meeting the Commission adopted emergency regulations that defined and clarified the geographic range for the Bay-Delta Sport Fishing Enhancement Stamp that conformed with the area identified in recently enacted legislation. The regulation required expedited action under emergency authority of the Commission to enable Title 14 regulations to be effective when the enacted legislation was to take effect on January 1, 2004. The regulations adopted by the Commission under emergency authority are effective for 120 days. The Department is now proposing that the regulations adopted as an emergency action be made permanent with additional clarification of area boundaries for San Francisco Bay and San Pablo Bay.

The Department is proposing to clarify the geographic range of San Francisco Bay and San Pablo Bay by indicating they include all tidal waters, sloughs, canals and forebays within the area east of Highway 101, south of Highway 37, west of Highway 29, west of Interstates 80 and 880, and north of Highway 237 including the Napa River below the Trancas bridge in Napa, Sonoma Creek below the Highway 121 bridge, and the Petaluma River east of Highway 101. The inclusion of specific landmarks that identify boundaries where the Bay Delta Fisheries Enhancement Stamp is required will eliminate confusion of the vague boundaries in current regulations.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held in City Council Chambers, 777 Cypress Avenue, Redding, California on Friday, March 5, 2004, at 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held in the Resources Building Auditorium, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California on Friday, April 2, 2004, at 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. It is requested, but not required, that written comments be submitted on or before March 26, 2004 at the address given below, or by fax at (916) 653-5040, or by e-mail to FGC@dfg.ca.gov, but must be received no later than April 22, 2004, at the teleconference hearing in

Sacramento, CA. All written comments must include the true name and mailing address of the commentor.

The regulations as proposed in strikeout-underline format, as well as an initial statement of reasons, including environmental considerations and all information upon which the proposal is based (rulemaking file), are on file and available for public review from the agency representative, Robert R. Treanor, Executive Director, Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Box 944209, Sacramento, California 94244-2090, phone (916) 653-4899. Please direct inquiries to Robert R. Treanor or Tracy L. Reed at the preceding address or phone number. Dr. Ed Pert, Department of Fish and Game, phone (916) 445-3616 has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations. Copies of the Initial Statement of Reasons, including the regulatory language, may be obtained from the address above. Notice of the proposed action shall be posted on the Fish and Game Commission website at http://www.dfg.ca.gov.

Availability of Modified Text

If the regulations adopted by the Commission differ from but are sufficiently related to the action proposed, they will be available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date of adoption. Circumstances beyond the control of the Commission (e.g., timing of Federal regulation adoption, timing of resource data collection, timelines do not allow, etc.) or changes made to be responsive to public recommendation and comments during the regulatory process may preclude full compliance with the 15-day comment period, and the Commission will exercise its powers under Section 202 of the Fish and Game Code. Regulations adopted pursuant to this section are not subject to the time periods for adoption, amendment or repeal of regulations prescribed in Sections 11343.4, 11346.4 and 11346.8 of the Government Code. Any person interested may obtain a copy of said regulations prior to the date of adoption by contacting the agency representative named herein.

If the regulatory proposal is adopted, the final statement of reasons may be obtained from the address above when it has been received from the agency program staff.

Impact of Regulatory Action

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and the following initial determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

(a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, Including the Ability of California Businesses to Compete with Businesses in Other States:

The proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. This action clarifies geographic boundaries of a fishing stamp required by legislation and places no additional economic burden on California businesses.

- (b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California: None
- (c) Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Business:

The agency is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

- (d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None.
- (e) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None
- (f) Programs mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts: None
- (g) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed Under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4: None
- (h) Effect on Housing Costs: None

Effect on Small Business

It has been determined that the adoption of these regulations may affect small business.

Consideration of Alternatives

Dated: February 10, 2004

The Commission must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the Commission, or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Commission, would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective as and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action.

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Robert R. Treanor Executive Director